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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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USDA Thanks New York Producers for Completing the Census of Agriculture ***NASS Will Release Preliminary Results February 20, 2014***

Albany, New York, January 31, 2014 – As New York farmers continue to provide food, fuel and fiber to our nation, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) thanks them for participating in the 2012 Census of Agriculture. USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is now analyzing the information collected and will release preliminary data on February 20, 2014.

"We thank farmers and ranchers nationwide for taking the time to complete their Census forms," said New York State Statistician Blair Smith. "The information producers provided is valuable to us all, whether we are personally involved in farming or not."

The Census is more than a count of U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them. It covers nearly every facet of U.S. agriculture, including land use and ownership, production practices, expenditures and other factors that affect the way farmers do business and succeed in the 21st century. It collects information about the agricultural industry that is not gathered as part of any other NASS survey - topics such as agritourism, organic production, farmer demographics, specialized agricultural production, and more.

"Companies, cooperatives, planners and lawmakers who serve New York's farms and communities - including federal, state and local governments, agribusinesses, trade associations and many others - will use the results of the 2012 Census," said Smith. "So will New York farmers, who use Census data to help make informed decisions about the future of their own operations and their communities."

When published in the spring of 2014, the final 2012 Census of Agriculture results will show changes since the 2007 Census, emerging trends, and whether longer-term trends are continuing or ending. In addition, the 2012 Census collected some data for the first time. The new data include statistics about biomass, Internet access, regional food marketing and distribution, land use practices, and agroforestry.

NASS is preparing to offer more data and products online than ever before. For more information about the Census of Agriculture, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov.

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